

§ 955.13

changes that have occurred in the topics specified in §850.13(b) of this chapter since the applicant last completed a course that was accepted by OSM for the issuance or reissuance of an OSM blaster certificate. If OSM determines that no significant changes have occurred, OSM may waive this requirement; and

(2) Have obtained from the training provider satisfactory evidence that he or she has completed training in accordance with paragraph (b)(1) of this section.

(c) *Availability.* OSM shall ensure that courses are available as provided in §850.13(b) of this chapter to train persons subject to this part who are responsible for the use of explosives in surface coal mining operations.

§ 955.13 Application.

(a) *Submission procedures.* Any person seeking an OSM blaster certificate shall:

(1) Complete and submit to OSM an application on the form prescribed by paragraph (b) of this section;

(2) Include as part of the application a nonrefundable fee as follows:

(i) Issuance or reissuance.....	\$122
(ii) Reexamination	\$61
(iii) Renewal.....	\$61
(iv) Replacement.....	\$28
(v) Reciprocity	\$61;

(3) For certificate issuance or reissuance, include as part of the application satisfactory evidence of having completed training as provided in §955.12;

(4) For certificate issuance or reissuance, specify in the application the date when the applicant desires to take a previously scheduled examination; and

(5) Submit the application in advance of the date of examination, or of certificate expiration, as follows:

(i) For certificate issuance, not less than 60 days before the date on which the applicant desires to take a previously scheduled examination;

(ii) For certificate renewal, not less than 60 days before the expiration date of the applicant's current certificate;

(iii) For certificate reissuance, not less than 60 days before the date on which the applicant desires to take a previously scheduled examination that

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will be held at least 60 days before the expiration date of the applicant's current certificate; or

(iv) For a certificate through reciprocity, not less than 45 days before the expiration date of the applicant's current certificate.

(b) *Application form.* OSM shall make available to any person seeking an OSM blaster certificate an application form and instructions for its completion. The form shall include a statement in accordance with law that the information provided is true and accurate to the best knowledge and belief of the applicant, and shall require the signature of the applicant.

§ 955.14 Examination.

(a) *Certificate issuance or reissuance.* After submitting an application, each applicant for the issuance or reissuance of an OSM blaster certificate shall pass a written examination, as provided in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) *Administration and content.* (1) On a regular basis OSM shall schedule and hold a written examination on the technical aspects of blasting operations and State and Federal laws governing the storage, transportation and use of explosives, as provided in §850.14 of this chapter.

(2) The examination at a minimum shall cover the topics specified in §850.13(b) of this chapter, and shall include:

- (i) Objective questions;
- (ii) Blasting log problems; and
- (iii) Initiation system and delay sequence problems.

(c) *Reexamination.* (1) Any person who fails the examination may apply to OSM for reexamination by submitting a new application, including the prescribed fee, but no person may take the examination more than 2 times in any 12-month period.

(2) Any person who fails the examination and submits a new application within 2 years of completing training as provided in §955.12(a) need not repeat, or resubmit evidence of having completed, training.

(d) *Failure to attend.* Except where the applicant shows and OSM finds good cause, OSM may reject the pending application of any applicant who fails to take the examination after OSM has

granted his or her request for admission.

§ 955.15 Certification.

(a) *Processing of application.* (1) Upon receiving an application for an OSM blaster certificate OSM shall:

(i) Notify the applicant of the receipt of, and of any deficiency in, the application.

(ii) Where applicable, notify the applicant that his or her request for admission to a scheduled examination either is granted or denied.

(2) When OSM determines that an applicant has failed to qualify for an OSM blaster certificate, OSM shall reject his or her application and notify him or her accordingly.

(b) *Grant of certificate.* OSM shall:

(1) Issue or reissue an OSM blaster certificate to any qualified applicant who completes the applicable training, passes the examination, and is found by OSM to be competent and to have the necessary knowledge and experience to accept responsibility for blasting operations;

(2) Renew one time the issued or reissued OSM blaster certificate of any qualified applicant;

(3) Replace the OSM blaster certificate of any qualified applicant who presents satisfactory evidence that his or her certificate was lost or destroyed;

(4) Grant an OSM blaster certificate through reciprocity as provided in § 955.16; or

(5) Reinstate a suspended, or reissue a revoked OSM blaster certificate as provided in § 955.17(e).

(c) *Term of certificate.* OSM shall grant an OSM blaster certificate for a term to expire as follows:

(1) Issuance—3 years after issue date;

(2) Renewal—3 years after expiration date of applicant's current or expired certificate;

(3) Reissuance—3 years after expiration date of applicant's current or expired certificate;

(4) Replacement—same expiration date as replaced certificate; or

(5) Reciprocity—60 days after expiration date of corresponding State certificate.

(d) *Limits on renewal.* (1) OSM shall not renew an OSM blaster certificate more than 1 time. A blaster who seeks

to extend a renewed certificate may apply to OSM for certificate reissuance.

(2) OSM shall not renew an OSM blaster certificate that expired more than 1 year prior to the date of an application for renewal. An applicant who desires to extend a certificate that expired more than 1 year prior to the date of his or her application may apply to OSM for certificate reissuance.

(e) *Temporary certificate.* Upon request of an applicant who demonstrates that his or her current OSM blaster certificate is about to expire, or expired within 30 days prior to the date of his or her application, for reasons beyond his or her control, OSM may issue a non-renewable temporary OSM blaster certificate for a maximum term of 90 days.

(f) *Conditions of certification.* Any person who holds an OSM blaster certificate shall comply with the conditions specified in §§ 850.15 (d) and (e) of this chapter.

(g) *Change of address.* Any person who holds an OSM blaster certificate shall notify OSM in writing within 30 days of any change in his or her address.

§ 955.16 Reciprocity.

(a) *Grant of certificate.* OSM shall grant an OSM blaster certificate through reciprocity to any qualified applicant who demonstrates that he or she, and whom OSM finds, holds a current State blaster certificate granted by a State regulatory authority under an OSM-approved State blaster certification program. An applicant for a certificate through reciprocity need not otherwise demonstrate that he or she meets the age, experience, knowledge, competence, training or examination requirements of this part.

(b) *Subsequent certificate.* (1) Any person who holds an OSM blaster certificate granted through reciprocity may qualify for a subsequent certificate either through reciprocity or by meeting directly the applicable requirements of this part for certificate issuance, renewal or reissuance.

(2) OSM shall not recognize a certificate granted through reciprocity as qualifying an applicant for certificate issuance, renewal or reissuance.